

Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SNM-02 JUSE-00 SCA-01

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FM AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1794

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS MARTINIQUE 0061

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, DFOR, SNAR, FR, MB

SUBJECT: EXTRADITION- BETTANCOURT ET AL

REF: STATE 019852, STATE 011042

1. THE FORT-DE-FRANCE PROCURER TOLD US THAT THE LOCAL COURT MADE DECISION TO DAY FEBRUARY 7 RECOMMENDING THAT BETTANCOURT , ET AL BE EXTRADITED TO US. WE UNDERSTAND THAT UNDER FRENCH LEGAL PROCEDURES THAT DECISION WILL NOW BE PASSED TO PARIS AUTHORITIES FOR FINAL ACTION ON EXTRADITION REQUEST.

2. SEPARATELY WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH COURT OFFICIALS ABOUT DEA INTEREST IN INTERVIEWING PRISONER. ON AN INFORMAL BASIS WE WERE TOLD THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN OBTAINING PERMISSION TO INTERVIEW ONE OF THE THREE ACCUSED ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS AND SUCH STEP SHOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE EXTRADITION PROCESS. IT WILL HOWEVER BE NECESSARY TO MAKE A FORMAL WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE JUGE D INSTRUCTION. WE HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT MADE A WRITTEN REQUEST BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO THE FACT THE COOPERATION BE CLOSELY HELD(PARA 3 STATE 011042) AND WE CANNOT BE SURE THAT THE OTHER PRISONERS WOULD NOT LEARN OF THE INTERVIEW. IT NOW APPEARS THAT GOF WILL MAKE FINAL DECISION ON THE EXTRADITION IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND IT MAY BE DESIRABLE, DEPENDING ON THE IMPORTANCE DEA ATTACHES TO THE QUESTION OF CONFIDENTIALITY, TO WAIT UNTIL THEY ARE DELIVERED TO US. WILL APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT S ADVICE ON THIS

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POINT.

3. AS FINAL POINT, WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT FRENCH AUTHORITIES
AT LEAST THOSE IN MARTINIQUE, ARE INTERESTED IN PURSUING THEIR
OWN SEPARATE CHARGES AGAINST THE THREE. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION
THAT THOSE CHARGES WILL BE PRESSED ONLY IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT
THAT OUR EXTRADITION REQUEST WERE DISAPPROVED. LOCAL AUTHORITIES
HERE HAVE GIVEN US EXCELLENT COOPERATION AND THEY RECONGNIZE,
WE BELEIVE, THE PRIMACY OF US INTEREST IN BETTANCOURT ET AL
BECAUSE OF THE SERIOUSNESS AND EXTENT OF THEIR DRUG ACTIVITIES
IN THE US.
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